

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's review of the above-identified patent application and respectfully requests reconsideration in allowance in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

Claims 1-7 and 9-19 are pending. Claim 8 has been withdrawn. With this amendment, claims 1 and 7 have been amended and claims 9-19 have been added. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

The Examiner has objected to the specification because of an informality. With this amendment, Applicants have corrected this informality. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to the specification has been overcome.

Claims 1-7 have been objected to due to an informality in claim 1. With this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to correct this informality. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to claims 1-7 has been overcome.

Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. In particular, the phrase "the

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direction of travel" (Claim 7, Line 3) lacks sufficient antecedent basis. With this amendment, amended claim 7 has been amended to correct the antecedent basis. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 7 has been overcome.

Claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Robinson (U.S. Patent No. 5,813,725). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

With this amendment, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to recite "a release mechanism providing a releasable rotational connection between said stepped switching mechanism and said drive gear such that said drive gear is not in contact with any other gears and may rotate freely about a horizontal tilt axis." (Emphasis added.) In contrast, Robinson discloses that the teeth of the quadrant gear 28 are in constant mesh with the teeth of positioning teeth 30 and idler gear 34. See Column 3, Lines 36-50. Accordingly, Robinson does not disclose or suggest all the elements recited in amended independent claim 1 and well as new claims 9-19 for the same reasons.

Claims 6 and 7 have been rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robinson in view of Olivieri (U.S.

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Patent No. 5,590,932). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

For the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that Robinson does not disclose or suggest all the elements of independent claim 1. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that Olivieri teaches a gear mechanism which is also constantly engaged. As described in Olivieri, the teeth 42 of gear pin 44 are permanently meshed with quadrant teeth 54 formed on quadrant 14. (See Figs. 1 and 3.) Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Robinson nor Olivieri, whether considered individually or in combination, disclose or suggest all the elements recited in amended independent claim 1 and well as newly presented claims 9-19.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicants' attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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